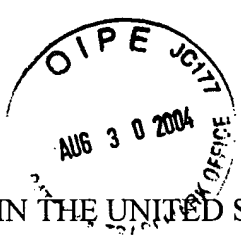


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Tomoaki KOBAYASHI et al.

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Group Art Unit: 2851

Appln. No. : 10/667,427

Examiner: Ricky L. MACK

Filed : September 23, 2003

Confirmation No.: 3282

For : LENS BARREL

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
220 20th Street S.
Customer Window, Mail Stop Issue Fee
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03
Arlington VA 22202

Sir:

In response to the Notice of Allowability, mailed by the Patent and Trademark Office on June 4, 2004, and to the Statement of Reasons for Allowance attached thereto, Applicants wish to clarify the record with respect to the basis for the patentability of claims in the present application. In this regard, while Applicants do not disagree with the Examiner's indication that certain identified features are not disclosed by the references, Applicants submit that each of the claims in the present application recite a particular combination of features, and that the basis for patentability of each of these claims is based on the totality of the particular features recited therein.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Tomoaki KOBAYASHI et al.

 *Rev. No.*

Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

41,568

August 27, 2004
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